families @ 300 tons per month has also been made for the months of April, 2007 to July, 2007.

Quality of foodgrains provided through PDS

2054. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of foodgrains provided through Public Distribution System is ensured; and

(b) whether his Ministry is receiving complaints about the poor quality, if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. It is ensured that only good quality foodgrains are provided through Public Distribution System (PDS). The following steps are taken to ensure good quality foodgrains for PDS:–

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instruction have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Governments and the Ministry pay surprise checks to the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few complaints have been received in recent past about the poor quality of foodgrains including about imported red wheat being distributed through PDS. The complaints have been mostly due to the preference for white wheat, whereas imported wheat is mostly red wheat. The complaints received were sent to FCI for investigation/taking necessary action to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued for distribution under PDS.

Seeking assistance for treatment through media

2055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor people seek help from others including foreigners through media to meet the cost of life saving operations to save their children;

(b) if so, how many such cases have come to the notice of Government during the last two years;

(c) whether such cases are not covered under the scheme 'Health for All'; and

(d) why Government do not come forward to arrange operations/treatment in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) This Ministry doesn't maintain record of such cases/information.

(c) Health for all is a defunct programme now.

(d) This Ministry have two schemes namely; Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant under which financial assistance is provided to poor patients for operation/treatment at Government Hospitals.

Conflict between Government and MCI

2056. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and the Medical Council of India have divergent view on a wide variety of issues;

(b) whether any effort has been made to reduce the conflict and disputes on medical education;

(c) whether any arbitrator has been appointed to discuss and resolve the ongoing tussles; and

(d) the status of the disputes and conflict between Government and Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no conflict between the Government and MCI. However, on some policy issues, there have been some differences of opinion from time to time. Which is natural in a democracy. These issues are sorted out by discussion.

Cancer control measures

†2057. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased refer to answer to unstarred question 1256 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 2007 and state:

(a) the amount spent to control the disease of cancer during the year 2006-07 and the estimated amount to be spent during the year 2007-08 in this regard, State-wise;

(b) the number of places raided during the year 2006-07 to find out the quality of medicines being provided to cancer patients and the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.